

1. An active pixel sensor, comprising:

a p type epitaxial silicon substrate;

an N well formed in said substrate;

a P well formed in said N well;

5 a deep N well formed in said substrate beneath said P well;

an overlap region formed between said N well and said deep N well wherein said overlap region electrically connects said N well to said deep N well when said overlap region is not depleted of charge carriers and electrically isolates said N well from said deep N well when said overlap region is depleted of charge carriers;

10 a first N region and a second N region formed in said P well; and

a P region formed in said N well.

2. The active pixel sensor of claim 1 wherein said first N region and said second N region provide electrical communication to said P well and said P region provides electrical

15 communication to said N well.

3. The active pixel sensor of claim 1 wherein the potential of said P well and the potential of said N well determine whether or not said overlap region is depleted of charge carriers or is not depleted of charge carriers.

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4. The active pixel sensor of claim 1 wherein said first N region, said second N region, and said P well can be used to form a floating gate field effect transistor.

5. The active pixel sensor of claim 1 wherein the potential of said P well is set so that said overlap region is depleted of charge carriers during a charge integration period.

6. The active pixel sensor of claim 1 wherein the potential of said P well is set so that said overlap region is not depleted of charge carriers after a charge integration period has been completed.

7. The active pixel sensor of claim 1 wherein the potential of said P well is set so that said overlap region is not depleted of charge carriers after a charge integration period has been completed and said first N region, said second N region, and said P well are used as a floating gate field effect transistor.

8. An array of active pixel sensors comprising:

a p type epitaxial silicon substrate;

a number of N wells formed in said substrate;

a P well formed in each of said N wells;

a deep N well formed in said substrate wherein said deep N well extends beneath each of said P wells;

an overlap region formed between each of said N wells and said deep N well

wherein said each of said overlap regions electrically connects one of said N wells to said deep N well when that said overlap region between that said N well and said deep N well is not depleted of charge carriers and electrically isolates one of said N wells from said

deep N well when that said overlap region between that said N well and said deep N well is not depleted of charge carriers;

a first N region and a second N region formed in each of said P wells; and

a P region formed in each of said N wells.

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9. The array of claim 8 wherein said first N region and said second N region in each of said P wells provide electrical communication to that said P well.

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10. The array of claim 8 wherein said P region formed in each of said N wells provides electrical communication to that said N well.

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11. The array of claim 8 wherein for each of said N wells the potential of that said N well and the potential of said P well in that said N well determines whether or not said overlap region between that said N well and said deep N well is depleted of charge carriers or is not depleted of charge carriers.

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12. The array of claim 8 wherein for each of said N wells said P well in that said N well, said first N region in said P well in that said N well, and said second N region in said P well in that said N well can be used to form a floating gate field effect transistor in that said N well.

13. The array of claim 8 wherein the potentials of each of said P wells are set so that said overlap regions between each of said N wells and said deep N well are not depleted of charge carriers during a reset cycle.

5 14. The array of claim 8 wherein a selected group of said N wells can be binned together by setting the potentials of each of said P wells in said selected group of said N wells so that said overlap regions between each of said N wells in said selected group of said N wells and said deep N well are not depleted of charge.

10 15. The array of claim 8 wherein the potentials of each of said P wells are set so that said overlap regions between each of said N wells and said deep N well are depleted of charge carriers during a charge integration cycle.

15 16. The array of claim 8 wherein the potentials of each of said P wells are set so that said overlap regions between each of said N wells and said deep N well are not depleted of charge carriers after a charge integration cycle has been completed.

20 17. The array of claim 8 wherein the potentials of each of said P wells are set so that said overlap regions between each of said N wells and said deep N well are not depleted of charge carriers after a charge integration cycle has been completed and said first N region, said second N region, and said P well in each of said N wells are used as a floating gate field effect transistor.

18. An active pixel sensor, comprising:

an n type epitaxial silicon substrate;

a P well formed in said substrate;

an N well formed in said P well;

5 a deep P well formed in said substrate beneath said N well;

an overlap region formed between said P well and said deep P well wherein said overlap region electrically connects said P well to said deep P well when said overlap region is not depleted of charge carriers and electrically isolates said P well from said deep P well when said overlap region is depleted of charge carriers;

10 a first P region and a second P region formed in said N well; and

an N region formed in said P well.

19. The active pixel sensor of claim 18 wherein said first P region and said second P region provide electrical communication to said N well and said N region provides

15 electrical communication to said P well.

20. The active pixel sensor of claim 18 wherein the potential of said N well and the potential of said P well determine whether or not said overlap region is depleted of charge carriers or is not depleted of charge carriers.

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21. The active pixel sensor of claim 18 wherein said first P region, said second P region, and said N well can be used to form a floating gate field effect transistor.

22. The active pixel sensor of claim 18 wherein the potential of said N well is set so that said overlap region is depleted of charge carriers during a charge integration period.

23. The active pixel sensor of claim 18 wherein the potential of said N well is set so that said overlap region is not depleted of charge carriers after a charge integration period has been completed.

24. The active pixel sensor of claim 18 wherein the potential of said N well is set so that said overlap region is not depleted of charge carriers after a charge integration period has been completed and said first P region, said second P region, and said N well are used as a floating gate field effect transistor.

25. An array of active pixel sensors comprising:

an n type epitaxial silicon substrate;

a number of P wells formed in said substrate;

an N well formed in each of said P wells;

a deep P well formed in said substrate wherein said deep P well extends beneath each of said N wells;

an overlap region formed between each of said P wells and said deep P well

wherein said each of said overlap regions electrically connects one of said P wells to said deep P well when that said overlap region between that said P well and said deep P well is not depleted of charge carriers and electrically isolates one of said P wells from said

deep P well when that said overlap region between that said P well and said deep P well is not depleted of charge carriers;

a first P region and a second P region formed in each of said N wells; and
an N region formed in each of said P wells.

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26. The array of claim 25 wherein said first P region and said second P region in each of said N wells provide electrical communication to that said N well.

27. The array of claim 25 wherein said P region formed in each of said P wells provides
10 electrical communication to that said P well.

28. The array of claim 25 wherein for each of said P wells the potential of that said P well and the potential of said N well in that said P well determines whether or not said overlap region between that said P well and said deep P well is depleted of charge carriers or is
15 not depleted of charge carriers.

29. The array of claim 25 wherein for each of said P wells said N well in that said P well, said first P region in said N well in that said P well, and said second P region in said N well in that said P well can be used to form a floating gate field effect transistor in that
20 said P well.

30. The array of claim 25 wherein the potentials of each of said N wells are set so that said overlap regions between each of said P wells and said deep P well are not depleted of charge carriers during a reset cycle.

5 31. The array of claim 25 wherein a selected group of said P wells can be binned together by setting the potentials of each of said N wells in said selected group of said P wells so that said overlap regions between each of said P wells in said selected group of said P wells and said deep P well are not depleted of charge.

10 32. The array of claim 25 wherein the potentials of each of said N wells are set so that said overlap regions between each of said P wells and said deep P well are depleted of charge carriers during a charge integration cycle.

15 33. The array of claim 25 wherein the potentials of each of said N wells are set so that said overlap regions between each of said P wells and said deep P well are not depleted of charge carriers after a charge integration cycle has been completed.

20 34. The array of claim 25 wherein the potentials of each of said N wells are set so that said overlap regions between each of said P wells and said deep P well are not depleted of charge carriers after a charge integration cycle has been completed and said first P region, said second P region, and said N well in each of said P wells are used as a floating gate field effect transistor.